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REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/49/L.48

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 15 and 21 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

(a) Invite the Secretary-General to prepare an estimate of the additional resources needed to ensure adequate follow-up activities by the United Nations (para. 15);

(b) Decide that the Population Commission shall be renamed the Commission on Population and Development and recommend that the Economic and Social Council review, at its substantive session of 1995, the terms of reference, the mandate, and the composition of the Commission, which is to be expanded to 53 members, as well as the periodicity of its sessions, which is to be on an annual basis, and in this context also decide that the revitalized Commission shall be the principal intergovernmental mechanism to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (para. 21).

2. With regard to the resources needed for follow-up activities to the Conference, it should be noted that an established capacity for this purpose already exists within the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. Within its organizational structure, the Department has the Population Division, comprising 26 Professional and 18 General Service posts under the regular budget. The Division's budget for the current biennium

amounts to $7,541,300. It would be the intention of the Secretary-General to utilize these resources towards implementation of the programme of follow-up activities, supplementing them as and when required by other resources of the Department.

3. With regard to operative paragraph 21 of the draft resolution, while the final decision on the mandate and composition of the Commission on Population and Development rests with the Economic and Social Council, it is the intention of the Secretariat to advise the General Assembly on additional costs that could arise if the composition of the Commission and periodicity of its sessions were to be changed as recommended by the Assembly. Under the established procedure, the members of the Commission are entitled to travel at United Nations expense. Travel of 53 members of the Commission would cost up to $132,000 per session. The conference-servicing requirements for one session of the Commission, of eight working days' duration, would cost up to $466,800 (in 1995 rates). These costs would represent additional requirements for any given biennium as a result of annualization of the sessions of the Commission. Moreover, increase in the membership of the Commission from 27 to 53 members would result in an increase in travel costs for the regular session of the Commission in the amount of $65,000. In total, the recommendations contained in operative paragraph 21 of the draft resolution would result in additional costs per biennium as of 1996-1997 as follows (in 1995 rates):

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(a)	Substantive costs	197 000
(b)	Conference-servicing costs	466 800